

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A printer~~ A printer, comprising:  
a sheet supply unit in which that accommodates a stack of sheets can be set; therein;  
a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;  
and  
a cover which covers the other side of the stack of sheets set in accommodated in the sheet supply unit; and  
characterized in that a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets set in accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction is provided; direction,  
wherein the forcible curling unit reduces curling of the sheets during feeding in a sheet feed direction that is substantially perpendicular to the sheet width direction, and  
wherein the forcible curling unit includes a rib which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude toward the cover so that a tip of the rib will press the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width direction.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The printer according to claim 1,~~ A printer, comprising:  
a sheet supply unit that accommodates a stack of sheets therein;  
a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;  
a cover which covers the other side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit; and

\_\_\_\_\_ a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction.

\_\_\_\_\_ wherein the forcible curling unit includes ribs which are provided to the cover to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs will press the stack of sheets set in accommodated in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The printer according to claim 1,~~ A printer, comprising:

\_\_\_\_\_ a sheet supply unit that accommodates a stack of sheets therein;

\_\_\_\_\_ a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;

\_\_\_\_\_ a cover which covers the other side of the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit; and

\_\_\_\_\_ a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction.

wherein the cover is provided with pressing means which applies pressure on the sheets ~~set in~~ accommodated in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, and

wherein the forcible curling unit includes ribs which are provided to the pressing means to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs ~~will press~~ are capable of pressing the stack of sheets ~~set in~~ accommodated in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.

5. (Currently Amended) The printer according to claim 1, wherein the sheets are ~~set in~~ accommodated in the sheet supply unit in the form of a sheet package including a package member containing the sheets.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A printer~~ A printer, comprising:

a sheet supply unit ~~in which that accommodates~~ a stack of sheets ~~can be set;therein;~~

a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets ~~set in~~ accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;  
and

a sheet separation unit provided on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit  
in a sheet feed ~~direction;~~direction; and

~~characterized in that~~ a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets in a sheet width direction at a position immediately before the sheet separation ~~unit is~~ provided;unit,

wherein the forcible curling unit reduces curling of the sheets during feeding in a sheet feed direction that is substantially perpendicular to the sheet width direction, and

wherein the forcible curling unit includes a rib which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude toward the cover so that a tip of the rib will press the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width direction.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet feeding mechanism, comprising:

a sheet supply unit ~~in which that accommodates~~ a stack of sheets ~~can be set;therein;~~

a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets ~~set in~~ accommodated in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit;

a sheet separation unit placed on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction; and

a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets set in accommodated in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width ~~direction;~~direction.

wherein the forcible curling unit reduces curling of the sheets during feeding in a sheet feed direction that is substantially perpendicular to the sheet width direction, and  
wherein the forcible curling unit includes a rib which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude toward the cover so that a tip of the rib will press the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width direction.

8. (New) The printer according to claim 1,

wherein the cover is provided with pressure plate which applies pressure on the sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, and

wherein the forcible curling unit includes ribs which are provided to the pressure plate to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs are capable of pressing the stack of sheets accommodated in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.